

## Editorial

In this issue of the Bulletin we take a look at the transfer of technology from the developed to the less developed countries. It is now becoming increasingly realized that technological transfers, though obviously of vital importance to the ldc's, are by no means always and necessarily beneficial. But much wider awareness is still needed of the circumstances in which the effects are likely to be positive for development. As the contributors to this issue make abundantly clear, however, knowledge alone will not cure the problem: what is needed is government action by the ldc's (and preferably at least regionally coordinated government action) to counteract the free play of economic forces and to develop a framework of constraints within which technology transfers can occur which have the greatest possible developmental impact.

This will be easy neither from a political point of view, as Charles Cooper indicates, nor in terms of administrative implementation, as Hans Singer repeatedly points out. Singer's article, which approaches the problem from the angle of the foreign firm, is very illuminating indeed on the expectations of those who transfer the technology; Constantine Vaitzos shows us some of the difficulties in his discussion of the bargaining process between two partners of very unequal strength. There is one more article in the general section, which is only indirectly concerned with technology. In it, Ian Hamnett examines, as a social scientist, the implications of an all too 'technical' view of the development process. Finally, in the Research section, David Lehmann returns to some age-old questions about the methodology of sociological research, inspired directly by his own recent experience in the field in Chile.

As from the next issue, the Editorship of the Bulletin will, for one year, be in the hands of Rita Cruise O'Brien and Clive Bell.

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